

file



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/894,296	06/28/2001	Joseph M. Knoerle	36968-255224	7600

7590 12/15/2004

JOHN S. PRATT
KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP (BELL SOUTH)
1100 PEACHTREE STREET SUITE 2800
ATLANTA, GA 30309

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/894,296

Applicant(s)

KNOERLE ET AL.

Examiner

Salad E Abdullahi

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/2/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-63 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant is advised to provide the serial numbers and/or patents related to this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Xue et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,782,414[hereinafter Xue].

As per claim 1, Xue discloses a method for providing a status notification for a message in a communications network comprising:

- (a) assigning a message identifier for said message (see col. 6, lines 46-53);
- (b) receiving a destination identifier for communicating said status notification (see col. 7, lines 43-65); and
- (c) associating said destination identifier with said message (see fig. 8D and col. 13, lines 3-14).

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 2, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

(d) creating a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event (see fig. 8D and col. 13, lines 3-14); and

(e) associating said disposition identifier with said message (see fig. 8D and col. 13, lines 3-14).

As per claim 3, Xue discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising:

(f) compiling said disposition identifier and said message identifier to create said status notification in response to a triggering event (see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14);and

(g) communicating said status notification in accordance with said destination identifier(see fig. 8D and col. 13, lines 3-14).

As per claim 4, Xue discloses the method of claim 3, further comprising:

(h) billing a party to said message for said providing of said status notification (see col. 2, lines 23-26).

As per claim 5, discloses the method of claim 2, wherein said disposition event comprises at least one of:

a managing event (see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14);and

a dispatching event (see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14).

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 6, Xue discloses the method of claim 5, wherein said managing event comprises at least one of:

accessing said message,

deleting said message;

presenting an indication of said message (see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14).

expiring said message', and

terminating a recipient of said message from said communications network.

As per claim 7, Xue discloses the method of claim 5, wherein said managing event comprises at least one of:

denying said status notification of said message; and

malfunctioning of said status notification of said message (see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14).

As per claim 8, Xue discloses the method of claim 5, wherein said dispatching event comprises at least one of:

forwarding said message(see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14); and

replying to said message.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 9, Xue discloses the method of claim 3, wherein said triggering event comprises at least one of:

said disposition event(see figs. 8A-8E and col. 13, lines 3-14); and
a passage of time (see col. 13, lines 34-44).

As per claim 10, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said destination identifier comprises:

an address identifier (see fig. D8, elements 834-840); and
a format identifier(see fig. D8, elements 834-840).

As per claim 11, Xue discloses the method of claim 10, wherein said address identifier comprises at least one of:

an email address(see fig. D8, elements 834-840); and
an access address(see fig. D8, elements 834-840).

As per claim 12, Xue discloses the method of claim 10, wherein said format identifier comprises at least one of:

an audio format;
a video format;
a text format;
a short message service format(see fig. D8, elements 834-840);and
a markup language document format.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 13, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said communications network comprises at least one of:

an electronic communications network (see fig. 6);

a text-based communications network;

a telecommunications network',

a video-enabled communications network; and

a multimedia-enabled communications network.

As per claim 14, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said message identifier comprises at least one of:

a type identifier;

an alphanumeric identifier (see fig. 8E);

a capabilities identifier; and

an annotation.

As per claim 15, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said message identifier comprises at least one of:

a communication network identifier;

a device identifier;

a role identifier;

a party identifier(see fig. 8E);

Art Unit: 2157

a date identifier(see fig. 8E);and

a time identifier.

As per claim 15, wherein said role identifier comprises at least one of:

an originator,

a sender;

a caller;

a recipient(see fig. 8E); and

a system administrator.

As per claim 17, Xue discloses the method of claim 15, wherein said party identifier comprises at least one of:

an email address(see fig. 8E);

an access address;

a voice sample; and

As per claim 18, Xue discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising storing an attribute for said status notification for said message, wherein said attribute comprises at least one of:

said message identifier;

said destination identifier(see fig. 8E);

Art Unit: 2157

said disposition identifier; and

said status notification(see fig. 8E).

As per claim 19, Xue discloses the method of claim 18, further comprising administrative functionality, wherein said administrative functionality comprises at least one of:

deleting said attribute (see fig. 8A and col. 11, lines 58-65);

monitoring said attribute;

moving said attribute;

forwarding said attribute;

selecting said attribute;

archiving said attribute (see col. 8, lines 38-46);

backing up said attribute;

informing a recipient of said attribute; and

blocking said attribute.

As per claims 20-63, the claims include limitations similar to those of claim 1-19, thus claims 20-63 are rejected same rational as claims 1-19.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2157

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Abdullahi Salad
Examiner AU 2157
12/2/2004